

**January 8, 2018**

Troy Mine, Inc.  
Attn: Doug Stiles General Manager  
Revett Silver Company  
6500 N. Mineral Drive, Suite 200  
Coeur d Alene, ID 83815

RE: Approval of Amendment 006 to Operating Permit 00093

Dear Mr. Stiles:

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed the final environmental assessment for Troy Mine Inc.'s application for a change in the soil laydown depth. The final amendment approval form and determination of significance is attached.

If you have any questions, please call.

Sincerely,



Herb Rolfes  
Operating Permit Section Supervisor  
Hard Rock Mining Bureau  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Phone (406) 444-3841  
Fax (406) 444-1499  
hrolfes@mt.gov

Attachments: Final Amendment Approval and Significance Determination

File: 00093.353  
OP\OP\_Revisions&Amendmnts\Troy Mine Inc 00093\2016 Amendment 006\Final Cover Letter

In order to determine whether preparation of an environmental impact statement is necessary, DEQ is required to determine the significance of the impacts associated with the proposed action. The criteria that DEQ is required to consider in making this determination are set forth in ARM 17.4.608 as follows:

1. The severity, duration, geographic extent, and frequency of the occurrence of the impact;
2. The probability that the impact will occur if the proposed action occurs; or conversely, reasonable assurance in keeping with the potential severity of an impact that the impact will not occur;
3. Growth-inducing or growth-inhibiting aspects of the impact, including the relationship or contribution of the impact to cumulative impacts;
4. The quantity and quality of each environmental resource or value that would be affected, including the uniqueness and fragility of those resources or values;
5. The importance to the state and to society of each environmental resource or value that would be affected;
6. Any precedent that would be set as a result of an impact of the proposed action that would commit the department to future actions with significant impacts or a decision in principle about such future actions; and
7. Potential conflict with local, state, or federal laws, requirements, or formal plans.

The operating permit amendment application submitted by TMI proposed to reduce the final reclamation soil cover depth for the tailing storage facility from the previously approved 18-inch soil cover to an 8-inch soil cover. The tailings storage facility covers approximately 303 acres. Areas adjacent to the tailings facility support mature western hemlock/queencup beadlily forest habitat and mature Douglas fir/pinegrass habitat.

Similar to the establishment of mature forest types under the currently approved 18-inch soil cover, forest vegetation will become established under the proposed action and alternatives in the short-term through seeding, planting and natural regeneration. The forest ecosystem will continue through successional stages over the long term. A local climax forest is expected to develop over the next 150 to 500 years.

Impacts to wildlife will also be the same under the proposed action and considered alternatives as compared to the currently approved 18-inch soil cover. The proposed action and considered alternatives will support forest vegetation diversity similar to off-site areas and consequently support similar wildlife. The forest established on the reclaimed tailings impoundment will eventually reach climax conditions. The approximate 303-acre tailings impoundment site is surrounded by extensive mature forests that will continue to provide climax forest habitat for wildlife. There would be no impacts to grizzly bear, black-backed woodpeckers, common loon, flammulated owls, gray wolves, harlequin ducks or peregrine falcons.



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Hard Rock Mining Bureau  
Hard Rock Operating Permit Section  
PO Box 200901  
Helena, MT 59620-0901

OPERATING PERMIT NO. 00093  
Pursuant to the Metal Mine Reclamation Act  
(Title 82, chapter 4, part 3, MCA)

NAME & ADDRESS OF PERMITTEE: Troy Mine Inc. P. O. Box 1660 Troy Mine, MT 59935	LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PERMIT AREA:  SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 29 NORTH, RANGE 33 WEST SECTIONS 31 AND 32, TOWNSHIP 30 NORTH, RANGE 33 WEST COUNTY: Lincoln
MINERALS TO BE MINED: Inactive and under final reclamation (minerals mined: copper and silver)	TOTAL ACRES COVERED BY THIS AMENDMENT TO THE PERMIT (Reclamation of the tailings impoundment) : <u>382 acres</u>  See Maps In Amendment Application.

BOND AMOUNT: (The current bond covers the proposed work)

THIS AMENDMENT AUTHORIZES THE PERMITTEE TO CONDUCT MINING ACTIVITIES AS SPECIFIED IN:

1. Operating Permit No. 00093 as modified by all previous minor revisions and amendment and by the 2012 Record of Decision (ROD) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
2. Operating Permit No. 00093 as amended to incorporate the reclamation plan set forth in the application to amend Operating Permit No. 00093 submitted by the permittee on December 16, 2016 as modified by the Department's selection of the Mosaic Alternative.
3. Title 82, Chapter 4, Part 3, Montana Code Annotated (MCA) and the administrative rules adopted thereunder.
4. Title 75, Chapters 2 and 5, MCA, and the administrative rules adopted thereunder
5. The following permit stipulations: None
6. Any incremental bonding conditions: N/A

Under 82-4-337, MCA, the Department is required to consult with an applicant before placing stipulations in a draft or final permit amendment. Permit stipulations in a draft or final permit amendment may, unless the applicant consents, address only compliance issues within the substantive requirements of the Metal Mine Reclamation Act, or rules adopted under the Metal Mine Reclamation Act. Although DEQ determined that the proposed amendment set forth in the revised amendment application complied with the requirements of the Metal Mine Reclamation Act and rules adopted under the Metal Mine Reclamation Act, the permittee has consented to implementing the Mosaic Alternative.

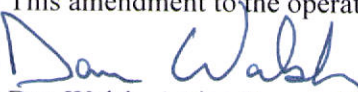
THE RECLAMATION PLAN MAY BE MODIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT, UPON PROPER APPLICATION OF THE PERMITTEE OR AFTER TIMELY NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING, AT ANY TIME DURING THE TERM OF THE PERMIT FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

1. To modify the requirements so that they will not conflict with existing laws;
2. When the previously adopted reclamation plan is impossible or impracticable to implement and maintain;
3. When significant environmental problem situations not permitted under the terms of regulatory permits held by the permittee are revealed by field inspection and the Department has the authority to address them under the provisions of this part.

A person who violates any of the provisions of Title 82, chapter 4, part 3, MCA, or any rule adopted or order issued under this part, or a term or condition of a permit issued under this part, shall pay a civil penalty of not less than \$100 or more than \$1,000 for the violation and an additional administrative penalty of not less than \$100 or more than \$1,000 for each day during which a violation continues.

Within thirty days after completion or abandonment of operations on an area under permit or within thirty days after each anniversary date of the permit, whichever is earlier, or at such later date as may be provided by rules adopted by the Board of Environmental Review and each year thereafter until reclamation is completed and approved, the permittee shall pay the annual fee of one hundred dollars and shall file a report of activities completed during the preceding year on a form available from the Department.

This amendment to the operating permit is approved and issued by:

  
Dan Walsh, Acting Bureau Chief  
Hard Rock Mining Bureau  
Department of Environmental Quality

Date

01/08/18